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MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS

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BOSTON

EUROPEAN DECORATIVE ARTS

Original Medals From the Italian Renaissance: Papal Medals

Department of European Decorative Arts Gallery Guide no. 2

~~SECRETARY~~ July 1913

Original Medals from the Italian Renaissance.

Papal Medals.

Medals began to be cast for the popes during the latter half of the fifteenth century. Toward the end of the sixteenth century Giovanni Paladino produced a series from Martin V. (d. 1431) to his own time, using earlier work as models. His series was supplemented by his contemporary, G. B. Pozzi, who produced a set commemorating all the popes, as his fancy dictated, from St. Peter to Alexander V. (1410). The first row in this case and several medals in the lower rows belong to this imaginative series.

1. Urban I. (A. D. 222-230).
2. Cornelius I. (A. D. 250-252).
3. Sylvester I. (A. D. 314-335).
4. Christopher I. (A. D. 903-4).
5. Celestine III. (1191-1198).
6. Innocent III. (1198-1216).
7. Gregory IX. (1227-41).
8. Boniface VIII. (1294-1303).
9. Gregory XII. (1406-9).
10. Martin V. (1417-1431).

    The front of old St. Peter's restored under this Pope. (Paladino)

11. Eugenio IV. (d. 1447).

    Surrounded by cardinals announcing the canonization of S. Niccolò da Tolentino. (Paladino)

12. Paul II. (1464-71).

13. Paul II. (d. 1471).

Front of the Palazzo Venezia built by this Pope.

14. Pope Sixtus IV. (d. 1484).

Opens the Porta Santa of St. Peter's. (Paladino)

15. Innocent VIII. (1484-92). (Paladino).

16. Alexander VI. (d. 1513). (Paladino).

(Rodriguez Lanzoli Borgia).

17. Pius III. (1503). (Paladino)

18. Julius II.

The warrior Pope and self-willed patron of Michelangelo. The figure of Moses (Cast No. 149) executed by Michelangelo for his tomb.

19. This group from a medal of Leo X. (died 1521), also a friend and patron of Michelangelo, has the relief, movement and complexity of a work inspired by that master.

20. Clement VII. (d. 1534).

Uncle of the two dukes for whom Michelangelo carved the Medici Tombs (Casts No. 157 and 157a). He is represented closing the Porta Santa. (Paladino).

21. Clement VII.

Arms of the Medici Family containing the pills which symbolized their origin as physicians (Medici). (Paladino).

22. Paul III. Farnese (d. 1549).

Shows the earlier front of St. Peter's.

23. Paul III.

View of Rome, somewhat crowded and insignificant.

24. Paul III.

Ganymede with the eagle watering lilies, the emblem of the Farnese.

By A. Cesati, called Il Grechetto (little Greek). The inscription is in Greek. In looking at another of Grechetto's medals, Michelangelo is reported to have said that

the last hour of art must have come, for nothing better could be produced.

25. Julius III. (1550-1555).

26. Marcellus II. (1555).

27. Paul IV. (1555-59).

28. Pius IV. (d. 1565).

The Castle of St. Angelo. According to the inscription (Instaurata) established under this Pope, after the terrible siege of 1527.

29. Pius V. (d. 1572).

Head of Christ. An ideal of young manhood, much softer and less elevated in type than customary.

30. Pius V.

31. Pius V.

In the attitude of blessing.

32. Gregory XIII. (d. 1585).

In the attitude of blessing.
By G. Melone of Cremona.

33. Gregory XIII. (1572-85).

34. Sixtus V. (d. 1590).

St. Francis with the Crucifix in his right hand sustains the crumbling church.

35. Sixtus V.

Front of St. Peter's as it would have appeared had the ground plan of a Greek cross with equal arms, which had been conceived by Bramante and adopted by Michelangelo, been carried out. A generation later Paul V. for ecclesiastical peasons changed the ground plan to a Latin cross with a long nave running toward the Piazza. Hence, the present front erected by Carlo Maderna a few years later dwarfs the dome from the Piazza and entirely conceals the drum from which it springs.

36. Sixtus V.

Four obelisks. It was under this Pope that

the obelisk was erected in front of St. Peter's. (See No. 51).

37. Urban VII. (1590).

38. Gregory XIV. (1590-91).

39. Clement VIII.(d. 1611).

Altar and ceremony of Consecration.
By Giorgio Rancetti (d. 1611).

40. Clement VIII.

Christ stilling the tempest.
By Giorgio Rancetti.

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41. Giovanni Luigi Toscani.

A leather cap showing no hair; very delicately modelled features.
16th century (?).

42. A monk in hood and gown carrying a book.

43. Sultan Mohammed II., Ottoman Emperor from 1451-81.

The cruel and able prince who murdered his nineteen brothers to gain the throne and soon thereafter in 1453 conquered Constantinople.
Signed: Constantius.

44. Sigismondo Pandolfo Malatesta.

Hair cut across his forehead; cuirass.
By Matteo de' Pasti (d. 1490?).

45. Reverse of another medal of the same person. Female figure seated on two elephants (his emblem) and holding a broken column.
By Matteo de' Pasti.

46. Carlo Grati.

Nobleman of Bologna; descends from his horse and kneels before a cross, the squire attending him on the left.
By Sperandio, 1490 (?).

47. Lionello d'Este (d. 1450).
By V. Pisano, the creator of the medal. (Died 1451 or 1452).

48. Giovanni II. Bentivoglio (1443-1509).

Long straight hair and skull cap turned up at back. Compare his portrait on the medal No. 1 in the case of reproductions. Compare also the picture by Solario in the Spanish-Italian Room which has been called a portrait of Giovanni.
By the Celebrated painter, F. Francia (1450-1518).

49. Bartolommeo Socinus.

Celebrated jurist. A lecture room with scholars on benches without backs. The lecturer on a high reading desk with curved sounding board; a water-bottle at his side. A relief resembling Hercules on the side of the desk. A little dog sits on his haunches below.
By J. delle Torre (b. 1440?).

50. Mary Tudor (1516-1586).

Second wife of Philip II. of Spain. Head-dress held by a jewelled band; richly embroidered ruff and bodice.
By Jacopo da Trezzo (1515-1601);

51. Domenico Fontana, architect (1543-1607).

On the reverse an obelisk with an inscription stating that he had transported and erected it by order of Sixtus V. (See No. 36). It was Fontana who erected the obelisk in front of St. Peter's.
From Como.

52. Guarino.

Celebrated Hellenist of Verona (1370-1440). In classical drapery.
By Matteo de' Pasti (d. 1490?).

53. Head of Dante.

54. Hercules Marscotus.

Bell metal.

55. Isotta Atti (d. 1470).

Third wife of Sigismondo Pandolfo Malatesta, with a rich head-dress covered by a veil falling on her shoulders. She was celebrated for her beauty and character.
By Matteo de' Pasti (1456).

56. The artist Vittore Pisano, the creator of the Renaissance medal.

Inscribed Pisanus Pictor (Pisano the Painter). He wears a high berretto. The reverse bears seven initials, identified as those of the four pagan virtues and the three theological virtues.
By the artist himself (1380-1451).

57. Unknown ecclesiastic.

58. Paul III. (d. 1549).

59. San Carlo Barromeo (1538-1584).

In a three-cornered cap and cloak. The hero of the plague in Milan described in Manzoni's novel of "The Betrothed".

Date: July, 1913.

Title: Original Medals from the Italian Renaissance.
Papal Medals.

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